



# GIANT HOGWEED

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

4-County CWMA Class A  
Oregon Class A  
Washington Class A

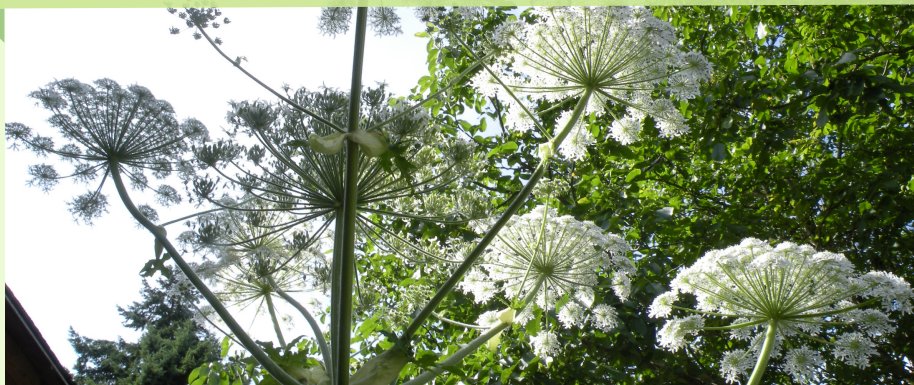


Photo: Mitch Bixby, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services

## ***DANGER!***

*Giant hogweed poses a serious threat to your health! Do not touch or attempt to control this plant. Oregon law requires that you report all sightings immediately for assistance.*

## *Overview*

Giant hogweed is not only an invasive plant, but is also a **serious health hazard** to humans and other animals, causing serious damage to skin. The sap is a phototoxin that makes skin ultra-sensitive to the sun. Skin contact may cause blisters and rashes that can last for over a year and leave scars. Contact with eyes can lead to blindness. Giant hogweed can produce as many as 100,000 seeds per plant, and seeds can survive in the soil for more than 5 years.

## *How to Identify*

Giant hogweed is identified by both its stalk height and its leaf spread. Plants grow 8-15 feet tall on a hollow, ridged, stalk with red/purple speckles between nodes. Full-grown stalks can be several inches across. Leaves are 2-5 feet wide and are deeply lobed. Flowers are relatively small, white, and grow in very large, flattened clusters. Stalks are covered in small stubble-like hairs that emerge from small bumps. Giant hogweed has small seeds that travel easily by water and on animals.

## *Control Methods*

Attempting to control giant hogweed without the aid of a licensed herbicide applicator is not recommended. Please contact your weed program in either Oregon ([www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx)) or Washington ([www.nwcb.wa.gov/find-your-county-weed-boards](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/find-your-county-weed-boards)) for assistance.

## Lookalikes

Giant hogweed closely resembles a native plant commonly known as cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*). These are often, but not always, distinguishable from giant hogweed by their shorter maximum height of 6-8 feet; their leaves are smaller with shallower lobes and less jagged edges. Cow parsnip does not have hairs or bumps along the base of stems, instead having more pronounced stem ridges, like celery. Help with identification is available from the Oregon or Washington Departments of Agriculture, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, or city officials (if in Portland).



Photos: Right, Mitch Bixby, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services; Top & bottom right, Samuel Leininger, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

## Submit your report today!

Giant hogweed is a top priority species within the 4-County CWMA boundary. Please report at all sightings at [OregonInvasivesHotline.org](https://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org) or call 866-INVADER in Oregon or [www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov/Sighting\\_Form.shtml](https://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/Sighting_Form.shtml) in Washington.



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

[www.4countycwma.org](https://www.4countycwma.org)